

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you to ask you to intervene in any possible way to assist us in obtaining local television broadcasting. We live in a remote rural area of the northern mountains of New Hampshire near the Canadian border. We have made inquiries about cable television being extended to our area, but the nearest existing cable is 22 miles away and we are told that it would not be cost effective for it to be extended further. Until this spring, we were able to access one ABC channel from Portland, Maine with a rotary antenna, but the management of Channel 8 decided to move their antenna from Mount Washington as they were more interested in serving a larger portion of Maine than they were in serving us. This has left almost everyone in our small town without any television service except for satellite dish coverage. When we asked to have Boston networks on our dish instead of the New York channels we are currently receiving, we were told that we were not eligible because our 'local affiliates' would not allow us to have them. Our question is, how can we have 'local affiliate' television stations when we live over 100 miles from the nearest television station (we aren't even sure who our so called 'local affiliates' are) and why should they have the right to stop us from receiving channels of our choice if they are unable to provide us with programming? We are requesting your assistance to correct what appears to us to be a very unfair and unreasonable business practice.

Sincerely,

Carl and Terri Ruel
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